



FEMA

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Disaster News

FEMA Extends Deadline for Public Assistance Requests to October 13

DES MOINES, Iowa — At the request of Governor Chet Culver, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has extended the deadline for requests for public assistance to October 13.

The public assistance program helps local government, state agencies, and certain nonprofit organizations pay for eligible, disaster-related costs for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and repair and reconstruction of infrastructure. To date, FEMA has provided more than \$224.9 million for projects to the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, the administrator of the program.

This is the second extension for requests for public assistance due to damage resulting from flooding, tornadoes and severe storms that struck Iowa from May 25 through August 13. 84 Iowa counties are eligible for the public assistance program.

“FEMA is once again extending the deadline for requests for public assistance to ensure that all interested applicants have enough time to submit their requests,” said FEMA’s Federal Coordinating Officer Bill Vogel. “We encourage applicants to take advantage of this extension and get their requests in as soon as possible. This may speed up the disbursement of program funds to help pay for Iowa’s response to and recovery from this disaster.”

The request for public assistance (RPA) is a form applicants use to apply for disaster assistance. FEMA and the state use the RPA to determine if an interested applicant is eligible for public assistance.

“The state asked for this second extension in response to an ongoing need in local communities,” said Iowa State Coordinating Officer Pat Hall. “Assessing the extensive damage of this year’s disasters has proved challenging. This additional time will help entities evaluate their circumstances and discover if their needs may be covered by FEMA and the state’s public assistance program.”

In addition to local governments, entities eligible for the program include state agencies, Native American tribes and tribal organizations and private non-profit organizations that provide critical community services, such as power facilities, health and safety services, and education.

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FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

Editors: More information about the Iowa disaster is available online at www.fema.gov or www.Iowahomelandsecurity.org.